



John J. Neu  
Chief of Police

# BULLETIN

TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



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## ARREST OF INTEREST TRAFFIC COLLISION SCAM – ELDER ABUSE

June 25, 2010

**DETAILS:** On Wednesday, June 23 at about 1:00 PM, the Torrance Police Department received a call from a local bank. One of their customers was making a cash withdrawal and had related to the teller it was to pay for damages resulting from a minor traffic collision even though she did not realize she had hit the other vehicle. The bank staff recognized this could possibly be a scam and contacted us immediately.

Once on scene, the officers were able to detain the suspects and make contact with the victim. The victim related she was backing out of her parking stall near Trader Joe's at 19720 Hawthorne Blvd, when she saw the suspect vehicle stop behind her. The male and female in the vehicle were waving their arms at her in an attempt to get her attention. The suspects told her she had struck their vehicle while exiting the parking stall. They showed her a dent on the front fender and wanted her to take responsibility. When the victim offered to call the police to have a report made, the suspects stated they had bad experiences with the police and were willing to just take cash to fix the car. One of the suspects made a phone call and then told the victim it would cost \$725 for a new fender. The suspects told the victim they were willing to follow her to the bank so she could make the withdrawal, if she did not have the cash on her.



The victim agreed to the suspects' demands and drove to her bank with the suspects following her in their vehicle. Investigation at the scene proved no collision had occurred and the suspects were simply trying to take advantage of the elderly victim.

**SUSPECT VEHICLE:** Bronze, Toyota Matrix 4-Door Hatchback, "TOYOTA OF HOLLYWOOD" paper plates,

We were able to identify an additional victim from June 17th after we had made the arrest on these two suspects. If you have any information on these crimes, or if this has happened to you, please contact Detective Gomez as soon as possible. If you encounter this type of situation, please call 911 immediately.

**ANY INFORMATION FOR DETECTIVE GOMEZ –  
310.618.5592**